

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W

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R 271204Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1056

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: OAU CONUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN FEBRUARY

MAJOR ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT OAU CONCIL OF MINISTERS

MEETING ON OAU BUDGET IN ADDIS ABABA NEXT MONTH ARE AS

FOLLOWS, ACCORDING TO LESOTHO FOREIGN MINISTER KOTSOKOANE IN

CONVERSATION WITH EASUM AT AAI AFRICAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE

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JUST TERMINATED IN KINSHASA.

1. PREPARATION FOR HEADS OF STATE REUNION IN KAMPALA IN JUNE.
THERE ARE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES OF VIEW AMONG AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS
ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE IDI AMIN PROBLEM. SOME ARGUE AGAINST
ANY OAU COLLABORATION WITH UGANDA. ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA MAY
WELL PRESS THIS LINE, IN THE LIGHT OF AMIN'S CALL FOR THE
PEOPLES OF THOSE TWO COUNTRIES TO OVERTHROW KAUNDA AND NYERERE.
SOME OAU MEMBERS ARE VERY MUCH WORRIED THAT A DECISION
TO GO AHEAD WITH THE KAMPALA MEETING WILL TARNISH THE OAU
IMAGE IN SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND ABOVE ALL IN EUROPE AND THE
U.S. AT THE SAME TIME, A STRONG COUNTERVIEW ARGUES THAT
OSTRACIZING UGANDA WILL ONLY MAKE MATTERS WORSE IN THAT
COUNTRY, THAT DISTORTING NORMAL OAU CHAIRMANSHIP ROTATION WOULD
BE DANGEROUS PRECEDENT, AND THAT THEREFORE MEETING SHOULD BE
HELD IN KAMPALA AS SCHEDULED. OHIS VIEW IS SUPPORTED BY THOSE
WHO HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR DIPLOMATIC STAFFS IN KAMPALA IN
SPITE OF DIFFICULTIES OF OPERATING THERE. SOME OF THESE AFRICANS
BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN EVERY
POSSIBLE AVENUE OF INFLUENCE ON AMIN. KOTSOKOANE WOULD
NOT PREDICT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RECOMMENDATION, BUT
APPEARS PERSONALLY PREFER MAINTAIN ORIGINAL PLAN.

2. REFOCUS LIBERATION COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES.
WITH PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES ON WAY TO INDEPENDENCE, OBJECTIVES
AND PROGRAMS OF OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE WOULD BE REVIEWED
AND REORGANIZED WITH EYE TOWARD CONCENTRATION OF LIMITED
FUNDS ON REMAINING PROBLEM AREAS.

3. NEW COMMITTEE FOR AID TO FORMER PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD PROBABLY RECOMMEND TO OAU SUMMIT
THAT NEW COMMITTEE BE ESTABLISHED, AND FUNDING PROVIDED, FOR
AID TO NEWLY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN NATIONS SUFFERING FROM
DISLOCATIONS OF LIBERATION STRUGGLE, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
DIFFICULTIES, SHORTAGE OF TRAINED MANPOWER, DROUGHT AND
FAMINE, ETC. TWO SPECIFIC AREAS FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION WOULD
BE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS IN MOZAMBIQUE AND
DROUGHT IN CAPE VERDE ISLANDS.

4. SANCTION FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN DIALOGUE
A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR DISCUSSION BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND
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SUBSEQUENTLY BY HEADS OF STATE WOULD BE WHETHER AND HOW TO
PROVIDE OAU BLESSING FOR DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND IN
PARTICULAR FOR RECENT TALKS ON SOUTHERN RHODESIA ORCHESTRATED
BY KAUNDA, NYERERE, KHAMA AND MACHEL. KOTSOKOANE SAID
THAT AT LEAST THREE COUNTRIES (ZAIRE, UGANDA AND SOMALIA)
RESENTED THE FACT THAT KAUNDA AND THE OTHERS HAD GONE AHEAD
WITH THEIR INITIATIVE WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH OTHER
OAU MEMBERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KINSHA00749
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750029-0643
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750118/aaaaapux.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAU CONUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN FEBRUARY MAJOR ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT OAU CONCIL OF MINISTERS
TAGS: PFOR, UG, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006